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**COUNTRY** Italy

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1. SINES (Societa Importazioni ed Esportazioni), an import-export stock company with central offices in Rome at Corso Rinascimento 19, is a member of a combine of commercial firms which have been created in Italy for political reasons. The declared purpose of the firm, as stated in its charter, is "to engage in the import and export of any kind of industrial and commercial product to and from abroad; to organize directly and through representatives and subsidiaries the sales of products purchased directly or acquired through exclusive rights as concessionary or representative; and all other activities connected with the above described operations". Reportedly, however, the actual purpose of the firm is:
  - a. To obtain a monopoly of import and export operations with Balkan countries predicated upon the political allegiances of the shareholders and directors; and
  - b. To force Italian firms who want to do business with the Balkans to deal through them and to pay them an average of five percent of the total amount involved in any transaction.
2. The records of imports and exports reveal that the firm has completed only three export operations during 1947 and 1948:
  - a. The export of 2,000 tons of Pozzolana cement to Yugoslavia in April 1947 for a total value of 4,000,000 lire;
  - b. The export of 132 cases of automobile spare parts to Yugoslavia in March 1948 for a total value of 13,017,991 lire; and
  - c. The export of 15 trucks to Rumania, the price of which was not recorded in the books.

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letter of 17 October 1961 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Attorney General.

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3. Certain Balkan agencies are making purchases for their countries, which they do not wish to be made known, through SIMES. For example, the Rumanian Commercial Counsellor in Rome, Grigore Livada, has completed arrangements for the purchase of 15 Dodge and Chevrolet trucks from the Gra firm of Reggio Emilia. The trucks were purchased by SIMES which then exported them to Rumania under its own export license. It appears that they were shipped from Naples in May 1948. Similarly, in April 1948, SIMES purchased, on behalf of one, Ignatovic, Director of the Yugokombiro, an Orenstein and Koppel excavator for 42,000,000 lire sold by the Societa Condotti d'Acqua of Rome.
  4. Balkan authorities in Rome give their full cooperation to all commercial transactions of the firms in this group. For example, SIMES usually transmits to the Yugoslav Legation in Rome a copy of all applications for licenses sent to the Ministry of Foreign Commerce by itself or affiliated firms. Together with the copy of the application, it sends a letter requesting the Legation to intervene at the Ministry in order to insure a speedy approval of the license.
  5. It appears that SIMES and other associated firms utilize the organization of the PCI to strengthen their position with Italian merchants and industrialists. For this purpose contacts are maintained with Senator Clarence Menotti, Otello Curti who is the PCI provincial administrative secretary for Salerno, Hon. Illo Barontini, Paggini (fmu) and Storri (fmu) - all three of the PCI organization in Leghorn, and others.
  6. SIMES was organized on 24 January 1946 and was registered on 25 May 1946 with the Rome Chamber of Commerce. When first organized it had a paid capital of 2,000,000 lire and was composed of the following members:
    - a. Paolo Sersale, lawyer, Mayor of Positano (Salerno);
    - b. Fausto Marzi Marchesi, engineer, building contractor, former commissary of the Azienda Servize Annonari, a government agency in Rome;
    - c. Loreto Parenti, lawyer, residing in Rome;
    - d. Aldo Cuttini, mathematician, residing at Udine;
    - e. Gastone Zuliani, clerk, residing at Udine.
- Each of the above-named persons subscribed to 400 shares at 1,000 lire each.
7. When the firm was first organized its directing officers were:

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- a. Paolo Sersale, President of the Administrative Council;
- b. Fausto Marzi Marchesi, Administrative Delegate;
- c. Aldo Cuttini, Loreto Parenti and Gastone Zuliani, Councillors.

8. On 21 March 1947 the following transfers of ownership took place:

- a. Sersale sold his entire holding of 400 shares to Fausto Marzi Marchesi;
- b. Parenti and Cuttini sold their entire holdings of 800 shares to Egisto Cappellini, a member of the Italian Senate. He is the Central Administrator of the PCI, Via Botteghe Oscure 13.
- c. Zuliani sold his entire holding of 400 shares to Mario Di Lella.

At the present time the ownership of the firm is as follows:

- a. Marzi Marchesi has 800 shares valued at 800,000 lire;
- b. Cappellini has 800 shares valued at 800,000 lire;
- c. Di Lella has 400 shares valued at 400,000 lire.

9. As a result of the changes in ownership, the officers of the firm were changed. At a stockholders' meeting held in March 1947, Mario Di Lella was elected President of the Administrative Council and Administrative Delegate for the three year period 1947 through 1949. On 14 January 1948 at a stockholders' meeting, Di Lella resigned and was replaced by Augusto Doro, a Communist Councilman in Turin. On 20 January 1948, Doro appointed D'Allessandro as proxy, to fulfill the functions of Administrative Delegate. D'Allessandro is at the present time the Director of SINES.

10. This whole organization of commercial firms - of which SINES is the most important - is headed by Senator Cappellini, Central Administrator of the PCI. Augusto Doro, the present Delegated Administrator, acting on orders from Cappellini, established at the end of 1947 and during the beginning of 1948 other similar firms throughout the principal cities of Central and Northern Italy. These firms had instructions to extend, in the various spheres under their jurisdiction, the net of commercial operations initiated by SINES. Consequently the following firms, all autonomous economically and financially, were created:

- a. In Milan: The Compagnia Europea Balcanica (CO.E.BA.) and the CO.CE.OR (sic). Both are limited liability corporations. They both have a capital stock of 50,000 lire. Their offices are at Via San Pietro dell'Orto 9, Milan. They are represented by Giovanni Ferro and Arturo Signorelli, well-known Communists in Milan.

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- b. In Turin: The Nord-Export and the Tecnoexport, both of which have their offices at Corso Stati Uniti 21, Turin.
- c. In Genoa: The Rimax which is represented by Franco Antonlini.
- d. In Florence: The Tecnoexport which has its offices at Via Orsola 36, Florence.
11. The above-named firms are in close contact with each other. It appears that they respect each other's exclusive jurisdiction over the countries with which each one deals. The Milan firms, CO.E.BA. and CO.CE.OR. are particularly interested in commercial operations with Yugoslavia. Recently they negotiated for the exportation of yarn valued at hundreds of millions of lire from the Italviscosa firm in Milan. The CO.E.BA. has already collected a commission of 32,000,000 lire on this transaction. The Italviscosa firm and Yugoslavia are negotiating through the CO.E.BA. another sale of 1,500,000 lire worth of yarn which will yield to the CO.E.BA. another commission of 75,000,000 lire. This operation has been authorized under export license No. 868380 by the Ministry of Finance on 3 July 1948 (C.E. 159887). The CO.E.BA. and the CO.CE.OR. firms also deal with Hungary. The SIMES firm in Rome deals particularly with Poland and Rumania. The sphere of the other firms of the group has not yet been ascertained.
12. All of the above-named firms are in close contact with the Commercial delegations of the various Balkan countries in Italy. The directors of SIMES have particular cordial relations with Ludwik Wedolowsky, Commercial Attaché of the Polish Embassy in Rome, and Grigore Livada, Commercial Counsellor of the Rumanian Legation in Rome.
13. The directors of the various official purchasing offices of Balkan countries apply to SIMES for assistance to purchase or sell in Italy. Thus in 1947 and 1948 Ladislav Gros and Edo Ivancic, directors of Centrotexil of Belgrade, applied to SIMES which referred them to the CO.E.BA. in Milan where they received all the assistance necessary. In the same manner, the directors of the "Magyar Kulforgalmi" of Budapest, Sobozuk and Kadutzyn, directors of the "Chemikalii" of Warsaw, and the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Commerce were all referred to the CO.E.BA. All these persons were informed that they could deal with Italian firms only through one of the firms of the above-described group and that the Italian firms which either bought or sold were forced to pay a stated amount to the intermediary firm.

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